Application No. 10/534566
Response and Amendment
Reply to Office Action Dated 31 October 2007

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CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended) A method for erecting (flat) blanks (12) for cartons, collapsible boxes, trays (11) and the like, comprising the steps of:

a) moving ~~with said~~ the blanks (12) ~~being moved~~ in front of an aperture (16) of a forming shaft (17);

b) pressing ~~and introduced therein~~ the blanks into the forming shaft (17) by means of a forming punch (20, 22), which can be raised and lowered, whereby parts of the blank (12) ~~in the region of walls (15) of the cartons, collapsible boxes, trays and the like~~, are erected ~~in the process,~~

c) transferring the blanks (12) after being erection to a conveying means (21); and

d) ~~characterized in that,~~ once the blank (12) has been introduced into the forming shaft (17), moving the ~~forming punch (20, 22)~~ conveying means ~~is moved,~~ in a direction opposite to that of pressing ~~down~~ of the blanks (12), ~~at least partially out of the forming shaft (17) and returned to~~ into a position in front of the aperture (16) of the forming shaft (17).

2. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, **characterized in that** the forming shaft (17) is assigned at least two forming punches (20, 22) which are moved into the forming shaft (17) in succession ~~in order~~ to press respectively a separate blank (12) into the forming shaft (17).

3. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 2, **characterized in that** the forming punches (20, 22) ~~can be~~ are swiveled out of the forming shaft (17).

4. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 2, **characterized in that** the forming punches (20, 22) are moved outside of the forming shaft (17) in front of ~~its~~ the aperture (16) for ~~the purpose of~~ pressing down a further blank (12).

5. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, **characterized in that** the forming punches (20, 22) are continuously driven by means of a common drive (24, 55).

6. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, **characterized in that** the blanks (12) are taken from a stack of blanks (13) and conveyed in front of the aperture (16) of the forming shaft (17).

7. (cancelled).

8. (cancelled).

9. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising the step of completing the erection of the blanks (12) ~~is completed~~ during their transport on the conveying means (21) by the filling of products (10) into the ~~partially completed cartons, collapsible boxes, trays (11) and the like~~ blanks.

10. (currently amended) A device for erecting flat blanks (12) for cartons, collapsible boxes, trays (11) and the like, comprising:

a) means for moving ~~in which said~~ the blanks (12) ~~are moved~~ in front of an aperture (16) of a forming shaft (17);

b) a forming punch (20, 22) for ~~and introduced therein~~ pressing the blanks (12) into the forming shaft (17) ~~by means of a forming punch (20, 22), which~~ that ~~can be~~ is raised and lowered, whereby parts of the blank (12) in the region of walls of the cartons, collapsible boxes, trays (11) and the like, are erected in the process~~,~~; and

c) a conveying means (21),

wherein ~~characterized in that, once the~~ the blank (12) is transferred directly by the forming punches (20, 22) to a receptacle for the blank (12) in the region of the conveying means (21) and that after the blank (12) has been pressed into the forming shaft (17), the forming punch (20, 22) ~~can be~~ in moved ~~at least partially outside of the forming shaft (17) and returned to~~ in a direction opposite to that of pressing the blanks (12) into a position in front of the aperture (16) of the forming shaft (17)~~, wherein the forming punch (20, 22) is moved out of the forming shaft (17) in a direction opposite to that of pressing in the blanks (12)~~.

11. (currently amended) The device according to Claim 10, **characterized in that** the forming shaft (17) is assigned at least two forming punches (20, 22) which ~~can be~~ are moved in succession ~~in order~~ to press respectively ~~a separate~~ the blank (12) through the forming shaft (17).

12. (currently amended) The device according to Claim 11, **characterized in that** the forming punches (20, 22) are rotatably mounted for ~~the purpose of~~ swiveling out of the forming shaft (17) or for swiveling in front of the aperture (16) of the forming shaft (17).

13. (currently amended) The device according to Claim 11, **characterized in that** the respective forming punches (20, 22) are rotatably mounted on a carriage (42, 50) that ~~can be~~ is moved up and down outside of the forming shaft (17).

14. (cancelled).

15. (cancelled).

16. (previously presented) The device according to Claim 13, **characterized in that** the forming punches (20, 22) are disposed to move up and down in the vertical direction on a respective endless conveyor as part of a linear axis (51).

17. (currently amended) The device according to Claim 14, **characterized in that** the forming punches (20, 22) ~~can be~~ are pivoted or swiveled on a strand of the endless conveyor by means of a carriage (50) arranged on the endless conveyor.

18. (previously presented) The device according to Claim 14, **characterized in that** the endless conveyor is assigned a common drive (24, 55).

19. (currently amended) The device according to Claim 13, **characterized in that** the carriages (50) are each assigned a drive (52) for ~~the purpose of~~ pivoting the forming punches (20, 22).